



Patent and Trademark Offic

COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS Washington, D.C. 20231

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	
09/451,	321 11/3	0/99 REID	R	ARMY-103
-		٦	EXAMINER	
		HM22/1130		
CAROLINE M NASH			CRIAF	RES.T
NASH & TITUS LLC			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
3415 BROOKEVILLE ROAD SUITE 1000				
BROOKEV	ILLE MD 20:	33	1617	J
			DATE MAILED:	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

11/30/00

Office Action Summary

Application No. **09/451,321**

Apr. nt(s)

Reid et al.

Examiner

Theodore J. Criares

Group Art Unit 1617



X Responsive to communication(s) filed on Aug 23, 2000	
☐ This action is FINAL .	
☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for fin accordance with the practice under <i>Ex parte Quayle</i> , 1935	formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.
A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to is longer, from the mailing date of this communication. Failure to application to become abandoned. (35 U.S.C. § 133). Extension 37 CFR 1.136(a).	respond within the period for response will cause the
Disposition of Claims	
	is/are pending in the application.
Of the above, claim(s)	is/are withdrawn from consideration.
X Claim(s) 17-24	
X Claim(s) <u>16</u>	
☐ Claims	
Application Papers	
☐ See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing F	Review, PTO-948.
☐ The drawing(s) filed on is/are objecte	
☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on	
☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.	s epp.ovou
\square The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.	
Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119	
☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority un-	der 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).
	ne priority documents have been
☐ received.	
☐ received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number	er)
\square received in this national stage application from the Int	
*Certified copies not received:	
Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority to	under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).
Attachment(s)	
X Notice of References Cited, PTO-892	
☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s)
☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413	
☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948	
☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152	
SEE OFFICE ACTION ON THE	FOLLOWING PAGES

Application/Control Number: 09/451,321

Art Unit: 1617

CLAIMS 1-24 ARE PRESENTED FOR EXAMINATION

The papers filed August 23, 2000 have been received and entered in the file.

The rejection under 35 U.S.C. 251 is withdrawn in view of the newly filed declaration.

Claims 1-15 are allowed.

Claim 16 is objected to since it is redundant with claim 13. Claim 13 contains an "agent".

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103© and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Claims 17-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tice et al (4,389,330).

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Tice et al teach at column 4, lines 55-65 microencapsules ranging from submicron to 250µm diameters for use in standard syringe and needle. At Column 7, Example 2 the microspheres are poly(lactide-co-glycolide) microcapsules.

These teachings differ from applicant's claims only in that the claims are drawn to the size of particles. However, the particles of Tice et al would have the same size as those of applicant's claims since they each have to pass through a syringe.

For these reasons the claimed subject matter is deemed to fail to patentably distinguish over the state of the art as represented by the cited references. The claims are therefore properly rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103.

1.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Examiner Criares whose telephone number is (703) 308-4607. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Thursday from 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 308-7924.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1235.

November 28, 2000

PRIMARY EXAMINER
GROUP 1200